

NOW STARTS the last day of another year.

How many years must pass before the world gets back to solid ground after the war?

No sign of safety yet. Senator Borah's request for a conference to start us in new European complications is set aside by revelation that our Government has already started in that direction, without letting the people or Congress know anything about it. The theory that the people are children and elect men to govern them is the Administration theory.

OUR GOVERNMENT has been "carrying on conversations" with European powers about debts that Europe owes us; about settlements that Germany must make with the Allies; what the United States can pay; what the United States will do if other nations take our advice; what we won't do if our advice is ignored, etc.

WE ARE GOING to "lose" another conference before 1923 ends. That's plain. The sudden rise in English exchange that puzzled the world is puzzling no longer. "Conversations" about cutting the interest on England's debt, and perhaps cutting the debt also, or forgetting it because England made some bad debts in the war that she can't collect—all that improves British credit and makes the pound sterling strong.

What knocked the German mark was buying foreign money to pay foreign debts. England is "conversing" to avoid that. She has statesmen. We have village politicians. Not much doubt about the result.

UNION MINERS WANT the Government to take over all the coal mines, soft and hard; pay the owners four thousand five hundred millions and run the mines under Government ownership for the benefit of the public and of labor.

About the price, there would be no trouble. The total amount is less than the nation spent this year for Christmas presents. The Government could finance it easily enough.

That the present system of strikes, lockouts and shortage is a disgrace is certain also.

The problem is one of Government capacity and official honesty. Can you imagine the field of graft opened up with political bosses mining and selling coal?

HOWEVER, every child falls and bumps its head learning to walk. Sooner or later the people must learn, in spite of bumps, to take care of their chief necessities. Coal mining, railroads, street railways, telephones, telegraphs and lighting systems have already outgrown private management and private finance.

STUDENTS of Moscow University, it is said, will select the Russian Christmas, which falls on January 7, for certain impious demonstrations. They will carry sacred images in procession, then burn them in effigy. Images of saints and devils will be burned together indiscriminately, according to a New York World correspondent.

Students and communists will unite to demand a law forbidding churches to feed the hungry.

ALL of which, in some form, usually accompanies violent revolutions, and is, in the long run, quite unimportant.

Many of the French decided, in their revolution, that religion was not necessary. They found themselves mistaken. Until within the last thirty years "The Comic Bible," a pamphlet caricaturing the Bible and lampooning sacred characters, has been sold publicly in Paris streets. But the real Bible has not suffered.

The Bolshevik government permits churches to continue, but near the churches puts up signs reading: "Religion, the Opium of the People."

The people gradually come back to the fact that there is a difference between opium and

GET IT ALL

Main News, 16 pages; Society-Sports, 10 pages; March of Events, 8 pages; Editorial-City Life, 8 pages; Magazine, 12 pages; Book of Magic, 8 pages; Sports, 8 pages; Comic, 8 pages.

Washington Times-Herald

AMERICA

FIRST

WEATHER
Rain or snow;
warmer today;
cloudy tomorrow;
probably rain; windy.



Vol. 1. No. 6.

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS PHONES

MAIN 1899

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1922.

Published every Sunday morning by The Washington Times Company

PRICE TEN CENTS

LLOYD GEORGE SEES HOPE OF PEACE

Crowell Among 7 Indicted In Camp Frauds

EX-ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR IS NAMED IN GRAFT CASE

Defendants Charged With Giving Cost-Plus Contracts to Own Firms and Friends

ACCUSED OF CONSPIRACY

Turned Down Lower Bids in Defiance of Law to Favor Others, Indictments Allege

The indictment by a Federal grand jury of Benedict Crowell, former Assistant Secretary of War, and six other former war-time Government officials in connection with cantonment construction, will be followed by prompt court action, it was stated last night by Government officials.

"The responsibility is now before the courts," Attorney General Daugherty declared. He declined to say whether additional indictments would be sought by the Department of Justice.

The indictments as presented at noon to Chief Justice Walter I. McCoy in Criminal Court contain the names of the following persons as defendants:

BENEDICT CROWELL, Assistant Secretary of War under President Wilson, and president of a construction company doing business under the name of Crowell, Lundoff, Little Company.

WILLIAM A. STARRETT, an engineer and architect, of the firm of Starrett & Van Vleck, and acting chairman of the emergency construction committee of the War Department.

CLEMENS W. LUNDOFF, vice president and general manager of the Crowell, Lundoff, Little Company, also chairman of the emergency construction committee and general manager of the Cleveland Construction Company.

CLAIR FOSTER, formerly associated with the George A. Fuller Company, and the Thompson-Starrett Company, and formerly a major in the Engineer Corps, U. S. A.

JOHN MACGIBBONS, representative of a bonding company and associated with the emergency construction committee.

JAMES A. MEARS, general manager of the Fred T. Ley & Co. and secretary of the emergency construction committee.

MORTON C. TUTTLE, general manager of the Abernethy Construction Company and chairman of the emergency construction committee.

NO DETAILS GIVEN.

The indictments, which are the first to result from alleged wholesale frauds growing out of the cost-plus system of contracts, do not go into details as to the various specific acts of these seven defendants, but deal mainly in generalities.

The tone of the indictments indicate that the defendants, who appear to have formed the emergency construction committee, or were else in absolute control of its operation and policies, "worked both ends against the middle," in that they placed contracts indiscriminately and in an alleged criminal fashion, with firms who paid them tribute and

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BENEDICT CROWELL (at top), former Assistant Secretary of War, and Major William A. Starrett, of the Starrett-Van Vleck Co., indicted by war frauds jury here



WEN GIRL RELEASED FROM ENGAGEMENT

Chinese Maid Told to Come Home and All Will Be Forgiven.

Mildred Wen, the pretty Chinese girl who would "rather die than marry," has been released from her engagement to George Num Lee, wealthy New York oriental lad, and will not be "punished" for her refusal to wed.

The runaway girl, in hiding since Tuesday, the second date set for her wedding, was sent the following "come home" message last night by her uncle, George Wen:

"Your little sister, Betty, is very sick. Come home. You will not have to marry anyone. You will not be punished."

The engagement ring sent from the girl's hiding place to her parents yesterday, was immediately shipped to Lee's New York residence. It was announced by the uncle. Accompanying the returned ring was a note announcing that she would not return home until she was guaranteed immunity from the wedding and punishment.

Italy to Oppose Ruhr Seizure, Says Press

ROME, Dec. 30.—Italy, in the allied conference next week, will oppose the French request for military occupation of the Ruhr basin, in Germany, but will support additional economic sanctions, the Giornale D'Italia stated today.

WOMAN IS SOUGHT IN YOUTH'S DEATH

Robert Webster Fatally Shot in Home of Friend at Capitol Heights, Md.

KILLING FOLLOWS DISPUTE

Police Doubt Claim Victim Is Said to Have Made of Suicide Attempt.

Robert Webster, twenty-eight years old, is dead, and police are searching for a married woman after a shooting last night at the home of Frank Huber, on Sixty-first street near Central avenue, Capitol Heights, Md.

Webster, who until a month ago lived with William Owens in C street, Greater Capitol Heights, was shot through the left chest, two inches below the heart. A blood transfusion, performed early this morning by Casualty Hospital physicians, failed to save his life.

LOVE AFFAIR ALLEGED. The shooting, police say, was the aftermath of a triangular love affair. Webster and the woman had visited the Hubers home often, according to the police.

According to Huber, Webster and the woman had planned a trip. She, accompanied by her five-year-old son and Webster, entered the home shortly after 7 o'clock, bringing a suitcase filled with clothing for herself and the child, he said.

Webster began drinking. Huber told the police, after which the couple had a dispute in a rear house. Huber told the police he heard Webster refuse the woman's order to go home, after which he heard a shot.

Running into the room, Huber told the police, he saw the woman pick up a revolver and, taking her son by the hand, walk quietly from the home. Joseph L. Durnbaugh, living across the roadway, heard the shot and running to Huber's home, found Webster lying in a pool of blood.

SEARCH FOR WOMAN. The wounded man was rushed to the hospital by Clayton Payne, living nearby. Despite the assertion said to have been made by Webster that he shot himself, authorities are searching for the woman.

Huber was questioned by Constable Thomas Garrison, of Hyattsville, and Deputy Sheriff Kelly Harris, of Prince Georges county, Md.

Police say a large still was found outside Huber's house, said to have belonged to Webster. After the shooting, Huber went to the cellar and dumped out four barrels of mash, which had been prepared by Webster, he said. No liquor was found.

The revolver, 32-caliber, belonged to Webster, according to Deputy Sheriff Harris. Police believe the shot was fired during a struggle over the pistol.

At the hospital, Webster gave his name as Robert Stoyer. Police declare he assumed the name which was obtained by his mother through her second lawyer.

BOSTON LAWYER A SUICIDE

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—Boardman Hall, corporation lawyer and former Boston public official, shot himself to death at his home here today. Ill health was given as the cause.

Love Leads Sightless Eyes of Two From District to Rockville Altar

Love is blind, literally, in the case of Miss Ruth Lloyd Perry, 1520 Columbia street northwest, and Louis G. Taylor, 400 Fifth street northwest, both sightless, who were married in Rockville, Md., yesterday afternoon. The ceremony was performed at the parsonage of the Rev. S. J. Goode, of the Christian Church.

MANY DANGERS SEEN IN HUGHES PROPOSAL

Senators and Representatives Say Plan Faces Same Pitfalls as Borah's.

MORE DEBT PLEAS FEARED

Will Give Impetus to Propaganda for Cancellation, It Is Shown.

By WINDER R. HARRIS.

The reaction on Secretary Hughes' proposal that a commission of financiers of the United States and the allied countries solve the reparations problem was distinctly unfavorable in both branches of Congress, except, of course, among the Administration standbys.

SAME DANGERS SEEN.

Leaders among the irreconcilables who fought the Borah amendment for an economic conference as a step toward American intervention in the European tangle, saw in the Hughes plan most of the same dangers that lurked in Borah's proposition and others equally grave. Senator George H. Moses (R.) of New Hampshire, said: "I was greatly struck by this new method of conducting our foreign relations by means of speeches before the American Historical Society."

Senator Johnson of California and Senator Reed of Missouri had not given the speech sufficiently careful study to warrant formal comment, but both indicated the same vigorous opposition they have expressed to every new effort to involve the United States in the affairs of Europe.

MANY PITFALLS FEARED.

Even some Democratic Senators who heretofore have favored every proposal for American participation in European affairs saw in the Hughes proposal many pitfalls for the United States.

In privately-expressed, unbiased comment by both Senators and Representatives who have kept abreast of the reparations, war debt and general international economic situation, two emphatic objections to Mr. Hughes' idea were set forth. These objections dealt with the certain effort that would be made to link up war debts with reparations and the fear of inability to select financiers who would not have axes to grind.

BANKERS FOR CANCELLATION.

American representatives on a commission of "men of the highest authority in finance," it was pointed out, inevitably would embrace international bankers. Virtually all of the outstanding international bankers in the United States, it was further declared, have in one way or another indicated sympathy with the European movement for debt cancellation. Knowing in advance the contention of European statesmen, financiers and economists that reparations cannot be separated from international war debts, the danger to the interests of the United States becomes obvious.

Five Are Hurt In \$250,000 Fire In Atlantic City

By Universal Service.

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 30. FIRE that started in the Bal Tabarin cafe today spread to seven cabarets, hotels, restaurants and stores in the block at New York avenue and the boardwalk, resulting in an estimated loss of \$250,000.

Three women and two men in hotels were hurt as the flames, fanned by a brisk sea breeze, swept rapidly along the block.

Luther J. Adler was seriously hurt when he fell through a skylight trying to rescue two women overcome by smoke in the Hotel Strauss. He was removed to the Atlantic City Hospital unconscious. Mrs. Josephine Nice, her left leg in a plaster cast, was rescued by firemen from the third floor of the McCrory apartments.

U. S. WAR SQUADRON SENT TO BOSPORUS

Will Re-enforce British Ships in Preserving Safety of Armenians.

By Universal Service.

LAUSANNE, Dec. 30.—The United States became the actual leading figure in the Lausanne conference tonight when it was reported that an American battleship squadron will re-enforce the British fleet now sailing from Malta to the Bosphorus. It was said the purpose of the American naval demonstration will be to impress upon the Turks the complete Anglo-American unity on the question of the safety of the Armenians.

The report of America's naval participation came close upon the filing of a memorandum before the conference today proposing the establishment of a "national home" for Armenians, taking in part of Cilicia to a point east of the Gulf of Alexandretta. This territory would be an autonomous state, similar to Switzerland and Belgium, under a treaty of all powers.

Although America refused the Armenian mandate, Ambassador Child said, she now proposes this plan in conjunction with all the powers, and stands ready to make a loan of \$20,000,000 from the United States Treasury to establish this "home."

Husband Sues "Other Woman" in Pollard Case

By International News Service.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 30.—H. Edward Beck, public accountant, who is being sued for divorce by Bertha Louise Beck, South Richmond choir singer, known as the "other woman" in the Pollard case, today filed a cross bill charging his wife with desertion and infidelity. Mrs. Beck, in her divorce action, recently filed, charged Beck with desertion and cruelty.

The grand jury will consider the Pollard case next week.

Madrid Terrorized By Bomb Throwers

MADRID, Dec. 30.—A reign of terror was precipitated here today by bomb throwing in various parts of the city.

A ministerial crisis is feared as a result of the disorders.

BANDITS GET \$27,000.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 30.—Working with lightning speed, five armed bandits within an hour this morning held up two plants in widely separated parts of the city and escaped with approximately \$27,000 in cash.

1922 DENOTES RETURN OF SANITY TO NATIONS, DECLARES EX-PREMIER

"Occupying, Controlling, Developing, Annexing—They All Mean the Same Thing, That the Province to the Left Bank of the Rhine Is to Be Torn from Germany and Grafted Into France—There Is No Peace in This Talk—It Is a Sinister Note on Which to End Pacific Music of This Year."

"WEARY ANGEL IS STILL ON WING, FOR WATERS HAVE NOT SUBSIDED"

By DAVID LLOYD GEORGE,
Former Prime Minister of England.

THE year 1922 witnessed a genuine struggle on the part of the nations to establish peace conditions in the world. During 1919-1920 and 1921, "the Tarantella was still in their blood." THE MAD WAR DANCE WAS STILL QUIVERING IN THEIR LIMBS, AND THEY COULD NOT REST. The crackle of musketry was incessant and made peaceful repose impossible. There was not a country in Europe or Asia whose troops were not firing shots in anger at some external or internal foe. America rang down the fire curtain until this hysterical frenzy had burnt itself out.

WAS SHE RIGHT? It is too early yet to give the answer. The case is but yet "part unheard"—many witnessing years whose evidence is relevant have not yet entered the box. It will, therefore, be some time before the verdict of history as to her attitude can be delivered.

Some Signs of Returning Sanity

But 1922 testifies to many striking symptoms of recovering sanity on the part of the tortured continents. Before 1922 you had everywhere the querulosity of the overstrained nerve; the slightest offense or misunderstanding, however unintentional, provoked a quarrel. And almost every quarrel was followed by a blow.

It was a mad world to live in. The shrieks of clawing nations rent the European night and made it hideous. One distinguished general declared that at one period, I think it was the year of grace 1920, there were thirty wars, great and small, proceeding simultaneously.

WHO WAS TO BLAME? Everybody and nobody. Mankind had just passed through the most nerve shattering experience in all its racking history, and was not responsible for its actions. Millions of young men had for years marched through such a pitiless reign of terror as had not been conceived except in Milton's description of the battle scenes when fallen angels were driven headlong to the deep. And when the Angel of Peace led the nations out from the gates of Hell, no wonder it took them years to recover sight and sanity.

Nineteen hundred and twenty-two was a year of restored composure. The outward visible sign was seen in the changed character of the international conferences held during the year. The ultimatum kind of conference gave way to the genuine peace conference. The old method insisted upon by French statesmen was to hammer out demands on a conference anvil and send them in the form of an ultimatum to nations who, in spite of the peace